

July 21, 2009

Contact: Major Melissa Phillips
Phone: 703-696-1171 x 535
E-mail: Melissa.Phillips@osd.mil

Ohio Department of Public Safety Named 2009 Freedom Award Recipient

ARLINGTON, VA - The Department of Defense has announced that the Ohio Department of Public Safety of Columbus, Ohio will receive the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. The Ohio Department of Public Safety was selected as one of only 15 employers from across the nation to receive a 2009 Freedom Award. A record 3,200 National Guard and Reserve members or their family members from across the country nominated their supportive employers for the award. The Freedom Award will be presented to the Ohio Department of Public Safety during a formal ceremony Thursday, September 17, 2009 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

The 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recipients are:

AeroDyn Wind Tunnel LLC - Mooresville, NC
AstraZeneca International - Wilmington, DE
Cambridge, MA Fire Department - Cambridge, MA
Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Inc. - North Charleston, SC
First Data Corporation - Greenwood Village, CO
FMC Technologies - Houston, TX
Jackson Parish Sheriff's Department - Jonesboro, LA
Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C. - Wilmington, DE
Microsoft Corporation - Redmond, WA
Mid America Kidney Stone Association - Kansas City, MO
NetJets - Woodbridge, NJ

Ohio Department of Public Safety - Columbus, OH

Perpetual Technologies, Inc. - Indianapolis, IN
Santa Ana Police Department - Santa Ana, CA
TriWest Healthcare Alliance - Phoenix, AZ

Nominated by an enforcement agent in Canal Winchester, Ohio, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) was selected as a Freedom Award recipient for its outstanding support which includes providing National Guard and Reserve employees differential pay between their military pay and ODPS salary during

deployments; continuing employee and enrolled family members' medical and life insurance benefits during deployments; creating a Military Committee responsible for supporting the needs of deployed employees and their families; and recognizing the military service of their employees through programs, official ODPS publications and their "Heroes" Web site. The ODPS has received numerous ESGR state awards for their support of National Guard and Reserve employees, including the Above and Beyond Award and Pro Patria Award.

"In the eight years our nation has been at war, America's employers - almost universally - have done an outstanding job of supporting their Citizen Warrior employees", said Dennis M. McCarthy, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "These fifteen employers are the 'best of the best' this year. They reflect the powerful synergy that exists between the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve, and their employers."

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. Previous honorees include American Express, Chrysler, Sears, The Home Depot, the State of Tennessee and the family owned Augustine & Sons farm in Rose Hill, IA.

More information about the Freedom Award is available at www.FreedomAward.mil or by calling the ESGR office at (800) 336-4590.

About ESGR

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 that seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. ESGR recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of the law, and resolves conflicts through mediation. More information is available at www.esgr.mil.